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### **Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP)**

Principal Investigator: Edward Louis, Jr., DVM, Ph.D.

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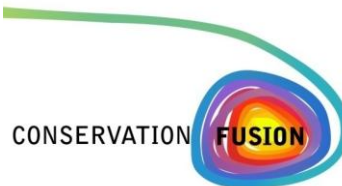
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Currently, the MBP is partnering with the NGO Conservation Fusion for the education and community based programs. Dr Louis spends up to 10 months in the field. If you are interested in partnering with or supporting the MBP, you can also contact...



### **Conservation Fusion**

Program Director:

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### **Background Information for the MBP**

Henry Doorly Zoo's Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) was initiated by Dr. Edward Louis in 1998. In an effort to develop baseline molecular, distribution and census data on lemurs and other Malagasy flora and fauna, he has carried out and supervised extensive fieldwork on the island for over a decade. The MBP team, expanded to 50 Malagasy employees, has successfully immobilized and released over 4,000 lemurs from

over 112 sites across Madagascar. Remarkably, the MBP is responsible for discovering 21 new species of lemurs in addition to elevating the status and redefining ranges of multiple other lemur species, ultimately rewriting lemur taxonomy. The MBP is also responsible for successfully re-establishing two lemur species (*P. diadema* and *V. v. editorum*) back into their historical habitat. Not to mention, the re-discovery of the critically endangered *Prolemur simus* in 2008 at the Torotorofotsy Ramsar site. Conservation efforts of *P. simus* are continued with the MBP launching a multifaceted program involving research, community outreach and education at Kianjavato, intimately connecting the local people with the environment. Additionally the group has created and distributed 15,000 conservation-based coloring and activity books to Malagasy primary school children. The MBP works in collaboration with multiple NGO's, governmental agencies, and researchers worldwide and supports 40 Malagasy graduate students. By supporting conservation both in the wild and in captivity the MBP works with the Malagasy zoo, PBZT, improving animal husbandry and constructing several exhibits for endangered lemur breeding programs. Furthermore, numerous community outreach and conservation education programs along with grass roots reforestation projects have been initiated.

### **Background Information for Conservation Fusion**

Conservation Fusion is an educational non-profit based in Omaha. Conservation Fusion aims to engage communities in educational programs creating an awareness and understanding of the world's unique biodiversity while instilling ownership and ultimately empowering individuals to take responsible action for a sustainable future. Conservation Fusion envisions connecting Malagasy children with youth in the US, empowering kids to be the change needed to protect and preserve the world's biodiversity. Founded by long time MBP supporter and staff member Susie McGuire. She was employed at the Omaha Zoo where she has focused on conservation since 1997. In 2005, she began work as a lab technician at the zoo's Center for Conservation and Research in the molecular genetics department, where the MBP originated with Dr Louis. While at this position, she participated in research, community involvement and education. A key component to conservation is education. The MBP's conservation research program has grown exponentially over the past decade creating the need for an education component, therefore, Susie founded a nonprofit organization, Conservation Fusion. Ms. McGuire has mentored over 35 international students and spearheaded multiple education programs including the creation of a conservation-based coloring book entitled *Lemurs: Your National Treasure*, distributed to 15,000 Malagasy primary school children in 2007 and a novel conservation education program in Kianjavato, Madagascar in 2009.